



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

450 N Street
Sacramento
California 95814

BETTY T. YEE
Acting Member, BOE
First District

RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YEE ANNOUNCES TAXPAYERS CAN SCHEDULE
APPOINTMENTS FOR TAX ASSISTANCE**

Betty T. Yee, Acting Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), announced today that California taxpayers needing help will be able to schedule appointments with tax specialists at four test locations starting on May 1, 2006. The pilot appointment service will be available for six months at BOE district offices in San Jose, Laguna Hills, West Covina, and Sacramento.

Taxpayers can use their scheduled appointment times for help registering for a permit, completing their tax returns, closing out permits, or finding other tax assistance. The pilot program will continue until October 31, 2006. Taxpayers visiting the four test offices may continue to walk-in without an appointment for service.

The San Jose office, located in Yee's district, serves over 56,000 California retailers.

If the program proves successful, it may be expanded statewide. No other state tax agency currently offers appointment scheduling at service centers.

Appointments will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Taxpayers can schedule appointments up to 30 days in advance by calling the following numbers:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
| Sacramento | (916) 227-5079 | San Jose | (408) 277-1446 |
| Laguna Hills | (949) 461-5756 | West Covina | (626) 480-7255 |

The Board has also recently expanded its electronic services by redesigning its website (www.boe.ca.gov) to allow free electronic filing for eligible sales and use taxpayers.

Acting Board Member Betty T. Yee, of San Francisco, assumed the First District seat on the Board of Equalization in 2004.

The five-member Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board collects almost \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes.

Other Board Members include Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District; Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District; Chairman John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District and State Controller Steve Westly.

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